



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor
Conference Room M
Thursday, August 23, 2018
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Phil Acord, Chair
Brenda Davis
Jennie Harlan
Lisa Hill
Amy Jones
Rob Mortensen
Christy Sigler
Altha Stewart
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Sharon Green
Genesis Hardin

Staff Present

Craig Hargrow
Melissa McGee
Latasha Mitchell
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield

I. Welcome and Introductions – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m., welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (HARLAN) AND SECONDED (STEWART) TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2018 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations – Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield discussed the DSO Violations Report. The total number of DSO violations from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, was 45. Out of the 45 DSO violations 24 were from Hawkins County. Whitfield stated Judge Green had stated at the July commission meeting that Hawkins County regular juvenile court judge had been out on leave, he is back now.

IV. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Task Force Update – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow stated he continues to provide technical assistance and support to the Davidson, Madison and Shelby County DMC task forces. Hargrow continues to work with the Davidson County DMC Task Force to host a statewide meeting and training session on September 18th. Kevin Bethel will be the featured presenter. Mr. Bethel is a retired Philadelphia Deputy Police Commissioner. He has done extensive work around reducing DMC. Additionally, Hargrow, Lisa Hill and John Hall had a conference call with Bernard Williams, the new DMC Coordinator for Shelby County Juvenile Court.

Hargrow had a DMC discussion with DCS representatives in July. Hargrow provided some guidance to DCS trainers about how DCS may be able to help reduce DMC in Tennessee. Hargrow talked to several DMC Coordinators in other states to provide and receive guidance and technical assistance.

Hargrow stated he continues to serve on the Steering Committee for Positive and Safe Schools Advancing Greater Equity (PASSAGE), an initiative that aims to lower racial and other disparities in school discipline through creating school and community partnerships in Metro Nashville. Hargrow is on the Steering Committee and the District Policy Committee. PASSAGE recently recommended changing Metro School policies to prohibit suspensions and expulsions of elementary students except for very limited reasons involving safety.

As the CJJ National DMC Coordinator Representative, Hargrow continues to actively serve as a CJJ Executive Board member. He participates in the monthly CJJ Executive Board meetings via teleconference and also served on the CJJ Annual Conference Planning Committee. Hargrow continues his efforts as the CJJ National DMC Coordinator Representative. In this capacity, he co-chairs monthly CJJ DMC/Ethnic and Cultural Diversity (ECD) conference calls. The following are some of the items discussed during the calls:

- A supplemental rule that would address the five phases of the DMC reduction model;
- The impact of DOJ rescinding various guidance and memoranda;
- Success and challenges of addressing DMC from various states;
- Planning the CJJ DMC Conference; and
- DMC-related legislation.

Hargrow has been invited to meet with Caren Harp, some of her staff and a small group of advocates to discuss the core protections of the JJDP.

The JJ team continues to participate in JJ specialist and Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) calls. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention notified Tennessee of its compliance determination. Thanks to the hard work of the JJ team and the Regional Coordinators OJJDP found Tennessee was in compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDA).

Brenda Davis, Rob Mortenson, Phil Acord, Kennedy, Whitfield, Vicki Taylor and Hargrow attended the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Washington, DC, June 27-30. The TCCY delegation visited various congressional offices to inform and advocate. The conference provided great opportunities to learn from other states and for Tennessee to share some of its insights and successes with others.

V. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDA) Update – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow stated not much has changed regarding the JJDA. There has been a recent push on getting the JJDA reauthorized and everyone seems optimistic.

VI. Grants/Contracts Monitoring - Latasha Mitchell

Mitchell reported all CASA and FFG contract monitoring reviews have been completed. Mitchell. Reported the CASA and FFG reviews were very lengthy. Reimbursement Accounts reviews are much narrowing and to be completed by early September. Issues noted during the reviews, grantees not appropriately documenting information, lacking data to support goals and objectives, unprepared for the monitoring reviews, not paying attention to what was in the original grant application. Discussed with Hargrow the upcoming CPO review cycle process.

VII. CJJ Conference-Commission Members and TCCY Staff

Acord reported there were many people at this joint conference and a lot of youth members upset about a couple of things said. Mortensen stated the common theme and take away from the meeting was collaboration and engagement from afar. Taylor reported there was a focus on Youth Voice and incorporating those with lived juvenile justice experiences.

VIII. TJCSA Annual Conference-Commission Members and TCCY Staff

Taylor reported on a session titled Social Media and Substance Abuse and the online pharmacies being the new avenue for buying and selling drugs. McGee stated being an outsider to the JJ world it appears concern around the Juvenile Justice Reform Act threaten the juvenile courts status quo. Whitfield reported attending a workshop on transferring juveniles as adults. There was discussion at the conference regarding the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of Tennessee. Mortenson stated there is a challenge for rural judges to do what they needed to do due to lack of resources in their area.

IX. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Approved by:

Zanira Whitfield
Juvenile Justice Specialist

Phil Acord
Chair